



Livingston County
**911 Central Dispatch /
Emergency Management**

300 S. Highlander Way
Howell, Michigan 48843
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**Richard L. Winsett, PEM-CEM
Director**

**Bruce Pollock, PEM, ENP
Assistant Director**

**Donald Arbic, ENP
Operations Manager**

April 19, 2006

Hon. Michael Nofs,
Chairperson
Energy and Technology Committee
House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Mr. Nofs,

Livingston County 9-1-1 Central Dispatch / Emergency Management Department is funded strictly by telephone surcharge. The citizens of Livingston County currently are being accessed \$3.00 per month per landline. Livingston County is one of the fastest growing in the counties in the State of Michigan, however the landlines have been dropping. Landlines in January of 2002 were 87,360 lines at the end of December 2005 they were reported as 80,289 lines. A loss of 7,071 telephone lines. In the first two months of this year, Livingston County has lost 3,263. A total of 10,334 land lines, which equals a monetary loss of \$372,024 per year.


Livingston County receives approximately \$250,000 from wireless funds. This equates to 8% of our budget, yet wireless calls account for 57% of our call volume. Prepaid wireless and Voice over IP telephony (VoIP) do not pay any surcharge.

The Public Safety / Judiciary Sub-Committee of the Livingston County Board of Commissioners will be recommending to the full board that the surcharge for 9-1-1 be raised from \$3.00 to \$4.00, on the 2006 August ballot.

If the landlines keep dropping at the current rate it is unknown how long Livingston County 911 Central Dispatch will be able to survive on the current funding formula.

Livingston County Board of Commissioners recommends the Michigan Legislature must act in a timely and collaborative manner to actively pursue 9-1-1 funding mechanisms that are reliable and equitable across technology lines.

Sincerely,


Bruce Pollock
Assistant Director

RESOLUTION

NO.

Substitute
206-063

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

DATE:

February 21, 2006

RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERS OF THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT 9-1-1 IN MICHIGAN BY ACTING IN A TIMELY AND COLLABORATIVE MANNER TO ACTIVELY PURSUE 9-1-1 FUNDING MECHANISMS THAT ARE RELIABLE AND EQUITABLE ACROSS TECHNOLOGY LINES-911 Central Dispatch/Emergency Management

- WHEREAS,** the Livingston County 9-1-1 Central Dispatch/ Emergency Management Director, and all Public Safety Officials are hereby requesting the Livingston County Board of Commissioners to encourage members of the Michigan Legislature to support 9-1-1 in Michigan to act in a timely and collaborative manner to actively pursue 9-1-1 funding Mechanisms that are reliable and equitable across technology lines; and
- WHEREAS,** 9-1-1 is recognized by citizens nationwide as the number to call for emergency assistance, from police, fire, and emergency medical services; and
- WHEREAS,** the Michigan 9-1-1 Service is enabled and governed by P.A. 32 of 1986 and its subsequent amendments (the Emergency Telephone Service Enabling Act); and
- WHEREAS,** the Emergency Telephone Service Enabling Act provides funding in the form of surcharges from both landline and wireless, that supports the network backbone and provides a capital and operational funding mechanism for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs); and
- WHEREAS,** Livingston County 9-1-1 Central Dispatch provides 9-1-1 Services that are critical to the protection of life, safety, and property in Livingston County; and
- WHEREAS,** all citizens are served quickly and effectively regardless of whether their 9-1-1 calls are made from a landline or a wireless line; and
- WHEREAS,** during Fiscal Year 2005, 57% of all 9-1-1 calls placed in Livingston County are made on wireless phones; and
- WHEREAS,** since 2002 the number of landlines in Livingston County has decreased by 6,700 or 7.6%; and
- WHEREAS,** 92% of the Livingston County 9-1-1 operational funding is borne by landline phones - the wireless 9-1-1 surcharge funding received through P.A. 78 of 1999 is a means of achieving some parity for 9-1-1 operational funding; and
- WHEREAS,** newer methods of accessing telecommunications through other devices and methods are rapidly affecting the 9-1-1 System; and

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WHEREAS, the 9-1-1 System as it exists faces restrictions in fund collection because the current legislation does not address modern technology that has not previously existed; and

WHEREAS, the widespread replacement of traditional landline telephones with wireless phones, VoiceOver Internet Protocol (VOIP), and other emerging technology has caused a flattened or reduced source of funding for many 9-1-1 PSAPs and network providers; and

WHEREAS, this inconsistency is not the product of one single cause, but rather a combination of emergency technology, broader access to 9-1-1, and a funding system that is based on traditional landline technology surcharges; and

WHEREAS, this combination results in Michigan's 9-1-1 System costs being paid by certain users, while others bear little or no weight of the burden; and

WHEREAS, some combined landline technical and 9-1-1 Operational Surcharges in Michigan are in excess of \$3.00 a month, while there are pre-paid wireless calling devices and VOIP Systems that are not subject to any 9-1-1 surcharges; and

WHEREAS, to meet these challenges Michigan's 9-1-1 Systems need support that can only be facilitated through legislative changes that keeps pace with developing technology; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Livingston County Board of Commissioners recommends the Michigan Legislature must act in a timely and collaborative manner to actively pursue 9-1-1 funding mechanisms that are reliable and equitable across technology lines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Jennifer Granholm, Senator Valde Garcia and State Representatives Chris Ward and Joe Hune, all Michigan Counties and the State 911 Administration.

MOVED: Commissioner Domas #

SECONDED: Commissioner Randall

CARRIED: 8-1-0 (Parker nay)

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN County of Livingston
I, Margaret M. Dunleavy, Clerk
of said County and Clerk of the
44th Circuit Court, do hereby certify
this copy as a correct and true
record of the original document
remaining on file in my office.
Dated and sealed: February 22, 2006.
Margaret M. Dunleavy, County Clerk
D. Van Blaricum, Deputy